

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

SCI-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /174 W
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R 141442Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6966

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 4173

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ENRG, RO XF

SUBJ: PARTY EXCO MEETS ON ENERGY PROBLEMS, MIDDLE EAST

REFS: A) BUCHAREST A-210; B) BUCHAREST A-117; C) BUCHAREST A-243

1. ROMANIA'S ENERGY PROBLEMS WERE FOCUS OF PARTY CC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION NOVEMBER 13. EXCO "DECISION" DREW TOGETHER GENERAL PROGRAM OF LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION STEPS TO IMPROVE ROMANIA'S ENERGY POSITION, MOST OF WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN IMPLICIT PARTY POLICY. CAPPING PRESS CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION, "DECISION" ALSO CONTAINED MEASURES WHICH WILL HAVE IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON CONSUMER WHEN IMPLEMENTED, E.G. REDUCED TRAFFIC SPEEDS, CUTBACK IN NORMS OF HOME AND OFFICE HEATING, "RATIONALIZATION" OF GASOLINE SUPPLIES (A COMBINATION OF RATIONING AND HIGHER PRICES HAS BEEN RUMORED), AND ILLUMINATION CUTBACKS. (ASSUME TEXT OF "DECISION" AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT VIA FBIS).

2. MILD HOARDING REACTION TO EXCO MEETING SEEN NOVEMBER 14 IN ENLARGED QUEUES OF MOTORISTS FILLING UP GASOLINE TANKS AND JERRY CANS AT BUCHAREST GAS STATION. DURING PAST WEEK NIGHTTIME
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ILLUMINATION OF STREETS AND BUILDINGS HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY

REDUCED.

3. COMMENT: IN RECENT YEARS ROMANIA HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY SHORT OF CRUDE OIL SUPPLIES AS DOMESTIC REFINING CAPACITY CONTINUES TO OUTPACE DOMESTIC CRUDE PRODUCTION. RECENT FUEL CONSERVATION MEASURES (REF A), AND DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY ROMANIA IN PLACING FIRM ORDERS FOR ITS REMAINING CRUDE REQUIREMENTS (REF B) HAD ALREADY SIGNALLED POSSIBLE BEGINNING OF TIGHTER DOMESTIC FUEL SUPPLY. ROMANIA'S URGENT SEARCH FOR CRUDE CONTINUES (REF C) AND MANIFESTED ITSELF AGAIN RECENTLY (ACCORDING TO REP FROM US OIL FIRM GULF) IN REQUEST TO GULF FOR OUTRIGHT PURCHASE BY ROMANIA OF ANY OF FIRM'S EXCESS SUPPLIES, AND PROPOSAL TO TRADE ROMANIAN PERSIAN GULF CRUDE FOR US MEDITERRANEAN CRUDE. NOVEMBER 13 EXCO DECISION GIVES EVEN STRONGER INDICATION OF DOMESTIC FUEL RESOURCE PROBLEMS ARISING FOR ROMANIAN ECONOMY, PROBABLY RESULTING IN LARGE MEASURE FROM RELATIVELY NEW PHENOMENON FOR ROMANIA OF HAVING TO COMPETE ON WORLD MARKET FOR INCREASINGLY SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF ITS CRUDE REQUIREMENTS AND DIFFICULTIES SO FAR IN FINDING LONG-RANGE SOLUTION. ANY SERIOUS SHORTAGE, EVEN OVER SHORT TERM, COULD ALSO HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON ROMANIAN ECONOMIC GROWTH PLANS IF FUEL SUPPLIES FOR INDUSTRIAL REQUIREMENTS MUST BE LIMITED.

4. SEEMINGLY UNFAZED BY NEGATIVE SOVIET VIEW OF ROMANIA'S ABORTIVE UNEF CONTRIBUTION AND MIDDLE EAST FREEWHEELING, EXCO SESSION GAVE "HIGH APPRECIATION" TO GOR'S RECENT ME INITIATIVES, CLAIMED ISRAELI-ARAB AGREEMENT ON CEASEFIRE CONSOLIDATION AFS OTHER EVENTS JUSTIFIED ROMANIAN ME POLICY, AND AFFIRMED THAT GOR WILL CONTINUE TO ACT "ON ALL PATHS WITH THE SAME PERSEVERENCE" TOWARD ME SOLUTION.

5. UNDERLINGING LATTER INTENTION WERE PUBLICIZED DEPARTURES NOVEMBER 13 "REPRESENTATIVES OF PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF STATE " (CEAUSESCU) OF CORNELIU MANESCU (FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER) TO EGYPT, SUDAN, AND MOROCCO AND MIRCEA MALITA (FORMER DEPT FOREIGN MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION) TO SYRIA AND IRAQ.

6. EXCO SET NEXT PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOVEMBER 28.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES, ECONOMIC STABILITY, EMERGENCY PLANNING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUCHAR04173
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731135/aaaaazpm.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) BUCHAREST A-210; B) BUCHAREST A-1, 17; C) BUCHAREST A-243
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARTY EXCO MEETS ON ENERGY PROBLEMS, MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ENRG, RO, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005